

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9899
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: JONES & SCANLON: THE "TERRIBLE TWINS" SLOWLY
MAKE THEIR EXIT

1. TWO BRITISH TRADE UNION LEADERS -- JACK JONES AND
HUGH SCANLON -- WILL BE MOVING FAIRLY SOON FROM THE CEN-
TER OF THE BRITISH STAGE. JONES AND SCANLON -- WHO WERE
ONCE DUBBED "THE TERRIBLE TWINS" BY THE BRITISH PRESS --
HAVE BEEN FOR MANY YEARS A MAJOR DETERMINANT IN TRADE
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UNION RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL
PARTIES. JONES, AS GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE NEARLY 1.9
MILLION MEMBER TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS UNION (TGWU)
AND HUGH SCANLON, AS PRESIDENT OF THE OVER 1.4 MILLION
MEMBER AMALGAMATED UNION OF ENGINEERING WORKERS (AUEW)
ARE RETIRING NEXT YEAR. THEIR SUCCESSORS, IN CHARGE OF
THE SAME REGIMENTS, WILL NOT GO UNNOTICED IN THE

CORRIDORS OF WHITEHALL AND WESTMINSTER.

2. THE RUN-UP TO THE ELECTION FOR JONES' POSITION AS TGWU GENERAL SECRETARY HAS ALREADY STARTED. WITH ABOUT FIFTEEN HATS IN THE RING AND BALLOTS SCHEDULED AT UNION BRANCHES BETWEEN FEBRUARY 19 AND MARCH 19. ACCORDING TO THE TGWU'S RULES, THERE IS A FAIRLY LONG TRANSITION PERIOD' SINCE -- TECHNICALLY -- JONES DOES NOT RETIRE UNTIL HE IS 65 IN APRIL 1978. AFTER THE VOTE IS ANNOUNCED IN LATE APRIL OF THIS YEAR. THE GENERAL SECRETARY-ELECT WILL BE OPERATING IN JONES' LENGTHY SHADOW, AT LEAST FOR A PERIOD. FRONT RUNNER IN THE RACE IS MOSS EVANS. 5L, THE NATIONAL ORGANIZER OF THE TGWU, WHO CARRIES JONES' BLESSINGS. MANY OBSERVERS CONSIDER EVANS A FRIENDLY, WELL-BALANCED INDIVIDUAL WITH A BASICALLY MODERATE OUTLOOK AND A SOLID REPUTATION AS A PRAGMATIC NEGOTIATOR. ANOTHER STRONG CONTENDER IS ALEX KITSON, A MEMBER OF THE TGWU'S EXECUTIVE FROM SCOTLAND AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE LABOR PARTY'S NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. HE IS CONSIDERED A LEFT-WINGER. AMONG THE REMAINING CANDIDATES, THERE IS JOHN COUSINS, WHO IS A FORMER NATIONAL OFFICER OF THE UNION, AND CURRENTLY THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OFFICER FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (NEDO). COUSINS, WHO IS THE SON OF FRANK COUSINS, JONES' PREDECESSOR AS GENERAL SECRETARY, HAS BEEN WAGING AN AGGRESSIVE CAMPAIGN. (HE IS AN IVP NOMINEE FOR FY 77-78.)

3. THE SUCCESSION TO SCANLON AS AUEW PRESIDENT -- THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOP JOB -- IS MORE COMPLEX. THE UNION IS SHARPLY DIVIDED INTO RIGHT AND LEFT-WING FACTIONS. SCANLON HAS BEEN GENERALLY LINKED WITH ITS LEFT-WING, ALTHOUGH DURING THE PAST YEAR HE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE MORE MODERATE POSITIONS OF OTHERS IN THE TUC "ESTABLISHMENT" SUCH AS JONES, DAVID BASNETT, LORD ALLEN AND LEN MURRAY. THE AUEW GENERAL SECRETARY. JOHN BOYD. 57, IS THE LEADER OF THE RIGHT-WING FACTION, WHICH HAS IMPROVED ITS GENERAL POSITION DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. ACCORDING TO THE AUEW ELECTION SCENARIO, THERE WILL BE NOMINATIONS IN MARCH, A FIRST BALLOT IN OCTOBER AND A PROBABLE SECOND BALLOT IN EARLY 1978. (SCANLON REMAINS PRESIDENT UNTIL HE BECOMES 65 LATE IN 1978.) BOYD COULD BECOME THE RIGHT-WING CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT PARTICULARLY IF, AS IS LIKELY. BOB WRIGHT, CURRENTLY THE UNION'S ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY, IS CHOSEN BY THE LEFT-WING FACTION AS ITS CANDIDATE. THE OUTCOME OF THE AUEW ELECTION BATTLE IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT AT THIS POINT. PARTICULARLY SINCE THE CONTENDERS HAVE YET TO BE CHOSEN.

4. THE DEPARTURE OF JONES AND SCANLON FROM THE MAIN-
STREAM OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WILL BE AN EVENT OF
IMPORTANCE TO BE SURE. BUT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT
TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE HAVE HAD AN IMPACT ON THE BEHAVIOR
OF THE ALMOST-VAUDEVILLIAN DUO OF YESTER-YEAR --
MR. JONES AND MR. SCANLON, AND ESPECIALLY MR. JONES.

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AFTER A PERIOD IN WHICH JONES ACTED EVEN AS A THORN IN
LABOR'S SIDE AND A REAL SCOURGE TO THE CONSERVATIVE
GOVERNMENT. JONES EMERGED,PARTICULARLY AFTER 1974,IN A
NEW ROLE -- AS AN ELDER STATESMAN CONVEYING THE SPIRIT

OF MODERATION FROM WITHIN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND ONE OF THE STAUNCHEST DEFENDERS IN BRITAIN OF THE LABOR GOVERNMENT. KNOWN AS THE FATHER OF THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND ITS PAY RESTRAINT FEATURE, HE BEGAN THE NEW YEAR 1977 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY CALLING ON WORKERS TO "WORK LIKE BEAVERS" FOR BRITAIN IN ORDER TO SPEED ITS ECONOMIC RESURGENCE. SCANLON'S MOVE TOWARD MODERATION HAS BEEN LESS PRONOUNCED, BUT HE, TOO, HAS DEMONSTRATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIAL CONTRACT AND DURING THE PAST YEAR HAS PERFORMED CONSTRUCTIVE WORK ON TRI-PARTITE COMMITTEES IN THE TRAINING AREA. HE STILL SHOOTS A DART OR TWO IN THE DIRECTION OF INDUSTRY, BUT WITHOUT THE OLD WAR-LIKE SPIRIT.

5. JONES AND SCANLON WILL NOT ONLY STEP DOWN FROM LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO LARGEST UNIONS IN BRITAIN BUT WILL ALSO MAKE WAY ON THE PRESTIGIOUS AND INFLUENTIAL NATIONAL COMMITTEES OF THE TUC. JONES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN THE DOMINANT TUC FIGURE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IN HIS CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, WHERE HE WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS OF ITS "DETENTE" POLICY TOWARDS COMMUNIST UNIONS IN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE -- A POLICY WHICH CONTINUES TO EMBITTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AFL-CIO. IN ADDITION, BOTH JONES AND SCANLON ARE MEMBERS OF OTHER POWERFUL POLICY-MAKING BODIES, SUCH AS THE TRADE UNION GROUP OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (NEDC), THE TUC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. AND TUC FINANCE AND GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE. THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE LIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SAME COMMITTEES. ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY SUCCEEDING TO CHAIRMANSHIPS, WHICH ARE DECIDED BY SENIORITY AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

6. WHOEVER ASSUMES THEIR MANTLES, HOWEVER, WILL IMPRINT THEIR OWN STYLES ON THEIR UNIONS AND NATIONAL EVENTS. IF MOSS EVANS EMERGES AS THE LEADER OF THE TGWU, HE IS VERY LIKELY TO FOLLOW JONES' MODERATE DOMESTIC ECONOMIC POLICY LINE OF THE PAST THREE YEARS AND POSSIBLY A MORE FRIENDLY STANCE IN RELATION TO THE AFL-CIO. HE WILL INHERIT A UNION WHICH IS MORE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED FROM THE TOP THAN THE AUEW, BUT HE WILL STILL HAVE TO GROW INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PUBLIC SHOES OF JONES. THE AUEW SUCCESSION WILL BE COLORED BY THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF THE WINNER, BUT THE

AUEW, WHICH IS STILL A CONFEDERATION OF UNIONS, IS
LIKELY TO REMAIN SOMEWHAT VOLATILE AND UNPREDICTABLE.
THE NEW LEADERS OF THESE TWO UNIONS (AT LEAST FOR SOME
TIME AFTER THEY EMERGE) WILL BE SHARING POWER WITH SOME
OF THE NOW OLDER HANDS LIKE DAVID BASNETT, GENERAL
SECRETARY OF THE THIRD LARGEST TUC AFFILIATE, THE GENERAL
AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS UNION (GMWU) AND LEN MURRAY, THE
TUC.S GENERAL SECRETARY WHO WILL NO LONGER BE THE "NEW
MAN" AS HE WAS IN 1973. IN ANY EVENT, AN ERA IN BRITISH
TRADE UNION HISTORY WILL CLOSE NEXT YEAR AS MR. JONES
AND MR. SCANLON SOFT-SHOE THEIR WAY TOWARDS THE WINGS.

ARMSTRONG

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